

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1393

To provide grants to ensure full and fair participation in certain
decisionmaking processes at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2001

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To provide grants to ensure full and fair participation in
certain decisionmaking processes at the Bureau of Indian
Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. GRANT PROGRAM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that amounts are
5 appropriated and acceptable requests are submitted, the
6 Secretary shall award grants to eligible local governments
7 and eligible Indian groups to promote the participation of
8 such governments and groups in the decisionmaking proc-
9 ess related to the actions described in subsection (b), if
10 the Secretary determines that the assistance provided

1 under such a grant is necessary to protect the interests
2 of the government or group and would otherwise promote
3 the interests of just administration within the Bureau of
4 Indian Affairs.

5 (b) ACTIONS FOR WHICH GRANTS MAY BE AVAIL-
6 ABLE.—The Secretary may award grants under this sec-
7 tion for participation assistance related to the following
8 actions:

9 (1) ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—An Indian group is
10 seeking Federal acknowledgment or recognition, or a
11 terminated Indian tribe is seeking to be restored to
12 federally-recognized status.

13 (2) TRUST STATUS.—A federally-recognized In-
14 dian tribe has asserted trust status with respect to
15 land within the boundaries of an area over which a
16 local government currently exercises jurisdiction.

17 (3) TRUST LAND.—A federally-recognized In-
18 dian tribe has filed a petition with the Secretary of
19 the Interior requesting that land within the bound-
20 aries of an area over which a local government is
21 currently exercising jurisdiction be taken into trust.

22 (4) LAND CLAIMS.—An Indian group or a fed-
23 erally-recognized Indian tribe is asserting a claim to
24 land based upon a treaty or a law specifically appli-
25 cable to transfers of land or natural resources from,

1 by, or on behalf of any Indian, Indian tribe, or
 2 group, or band of Indians (including the Acts com-
 3 monly known as the Trade and Intercourse Acts (1
 4 Stat. 137; 2 Stat. 139; and 4 Stat. 729)).

5 (5) OTHER ACTIONS.—Any other action or pro-
 6 posed action relating to an Indian group or feder-
 7 ally-recognized Indian tribe if the Secretary deter-
 8 mines that the action or proposed action is likely to
 9 significantly affect the citizens represented by a local
 10 government.

11 (c) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Grants awarded under
 12 this section to a local government or eligible Indian group
 13 for any one action may not exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal
 14 year.

15 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) ACKNOWLEDGED INDIAN TRIBE.—The term
 17 “acknowledged Indian tribe” means any Indian
 18 tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized group
 19 or community which is recognized as eligible for the
 20 special programs and services provided by the
 21 United States to Indians because of their status as
 22 Indians.

23 (2) ELIGIBLE INDIAN GROUP.—The term “eligi-
 24 ble Indian group” means a group that—

1 (A) is determined by the Secretary to be in
2 need of financial assistance to facilitate fair
3 participation in a pending action described in
4 subsection (b);

5 (B) is an acknowledged Indian Tribe or
6 has petitioned the Secretary to be acknowledged
7 as a Indian Tribe; and

8 (C) petitions the Secretary for a grant
9 under subsection (a).

10 (3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term
11 “eligible local government” means a municipality or
12 county that—

13 (A) is determined by the Secretary to be in
14 need of financial assistance to facilitate fair
15 participation in a pending action described in
16 subsection (b); and

17 (B) petitions the Secretary for a grant
18 under subsection (a).

19 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of the Interior.

21 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Grants awarded under this
22 section may only be applied to expenses incurred after the
23 date of enactment of this Act.

24 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
25 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

- 1 \$8,000,000 for each fiscal year that begins after the date
- 2 of the enactment of this Act.

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